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FUKIEN PROVINCE DEVELOPS SMALL COAL PITS

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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## FOREWORD

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## FUKIEN PROVINCE DEVELOPS SMALL COAL PITS

- Communist China -

[Following is a translation of a news dispatch from Fukien Jih-pao, Foochow, 27 September 1960, page 1.]

In line with the policy of "walking with two legs" for the simultaneous development of large, medium, and small enterprises with medium and small enterprises as the main, and combining native with modern methods, Fukien Province has motivated the masses to center their efforts on developing "mass native enterprises" and "mass modern enterprises" in the coal industry, thus guaranteeing a rapid development of coal industry and accelerating the production of iron and steel and other fields of industry.

Coal industry in Fukien Province was practically non-existent until 1958 when the mass movement for developing iron and steel on a full scale opened the way for the masses to discover huge coal resources and to found and develop the coal industry, solving the coal shortage problem in the province. Since the beginning of this year, the continuous leap forward in farm production and the rapid development of iron and steel industry in the province have posed an increasing demand for coal supplies.

To meet the demand of the new situation, the various areas throughout the province have further stepped up the mass movement for developing small coal pits while at the same time concentrating on the construction of key coal mining enterprises as a means to accelerate the development of the coal industry. Particularly after the provincial party committee's call for a major campaign for iron and steel in May, the province promptly opened up more than 200 small coal pits within a short time. Being simple in structure, economical in cost, quick in construction, these small pits, which can be operated by native methods, are capable of turning out coal speedily to furnish the needs of the iron and steel industry and agricultural production and thus provide a tremendous support for the continual leap forward of industry and agriculture.

The development of small coal pits has also helped

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in the discovery of underground wealth and geological exploration, as many localities which formerly were known to have no coal deposits have now discovered coal. Take Chung-an Hsien for instance. In the course of the battle for coal, iron and steel, the masses of workers, peasants, public functionaries, and students discovered more than 80 places with coal deposits in this country where no coal deposits were recorded before and set up more than 20 coal pits in a little more than two weeks. Meanwhile, the province has also fully developed the areas along the coast where coal resources are relatively low and built up small coal mines on a mass scale. It has also dispatched expeditionary teams to areas with rich coal deposits.

In line with the policy of "walking with two legs", the province centers its efforts on the key coal mines while at the same time developing to the greatest extent the potentiality of coal production by mobilizing the workers to excavate open-cut coal rocks and to open up small coal pits so as to speed up the production of coal. The Tien-hu-shan colliery in Yung-ch'un Hsien set up eight small pits in May which averaged more than 200 tons of coal output per day, accounting for over half of the output of its modern coal mines.

With the operation of small coal pits on a mass scale, the province has gained a more rational planning on the development of its coal industry. At present, many counties, such as Chung-an, Chiang-lo, Shang-hang and Ching-ning, which had no coal production before, are now producing coal. Many areas are combining coal excavation with iron smelting to provide sufficient coal supplies for the mass groups of small iron furnaces. Lung-yen hsien has set up scores of small coal pits in a month to support the small iron factories, thus building a chain of "small iron factories, small mining hills, and small coal pits" for accelerating the development of local iron and steel and other industries and saving both transportation and operating costs.

The various areas have also carried out the technical transformation of small coal pits through the process of combining native with modern methods and energetically created and popularized modern techniques and new tools. This has greatly raised the productive efficiency and production and enabled small pits operated with native methods to become modernized gradually. The Shan-fang coal mine in P'u-cheng Hsien has organized its workers to energetically concentrate on technical innovations with wide adoption of drilling machines for tunneling work and building mining railroads for coal transportation, as well as mechanizing coal loading and mining operations to reduce manual labor and raise work

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efficiency. As a result, the coal mine has raised its output by 50 percent and thus prefulfilled its annual production plan four months ahead of schedule.

At present, the various localities are continuously adjusting, strengthening, and improving the operations of small coal pits and stepping up the technical reform process in an effort to achieve a gradual modernization of these "mass pits" and to further develop their production potentiality.

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